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Brussels, Belgium
14-20 May 2001

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference

The Secretary-General of the Conference has the honour to transmit herewith the annotated provisional agenda for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. The annotations have been prepared by the secretariat in accordance with the usual practice, taking into account decisions of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee.

With regard to organizational matters, in addition to document A/CONF.191/INF.2 on the structure/format of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC III), the secretariat will issue a detailed schedule of meetings prior to the Conference.

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Conference

2. Election of the President

3. Adoption of the rules of procedure

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. Establishment of subsidiary bodies

6. Election of officers other than the President

7. Credentials of representatives participating in the Conference:

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8. Assessment of the results of the Programme of Action during the 1990s at the country level

9. Review of the implementation of international support measures, particularly in the areas of official development assistance, debt, investment and trade

10. Programme of Action: formulation and adoption of appropriate national and international policies and measures for sustainable development of the least developed countries and their progressive integration into the world economy

11. Other business

12. Adoption of the report of the Conference

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 52/187 of 18 December 1997, decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in the year 2001, and in its resolution 53/182 of 15 December 1998 accepted the offer of the European Union to host the Conference. The Conference will be held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001 in the European Parliament Building. It will be preceded by a half-day briefing session for senior officials on 13 May at 4 p.m. in the Borschette building in Brussels to complete all outstanding organizational, administrative and procedural matters.

2. The mandate of the Conference, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/187, is as follows:

(i) To assess the results of the Programme of Action during the 1990s at the country level;

(ii) To review implementation of international support measures, particularly in the areas of official development assistance, debt, investment and trade;

(iii) To consider the formulation and adoption of appropriate national and international policies and measures for sustainable development of the least developed countries and their progressive integration into the world economy.

3. The Conference will be open to the participation of the following, upon invitation or designation of the Secretary-General of the Conference and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the United Nations and of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

(b) Representatives of the European Union Institutions as host of the Conference;

(c) Representatives of organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under its auspices in the capacity of observers;

(d) Representatives of the specialized and related agencies;

(e) Representatives of intergovernmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations and UNCTAD;

(f) Representatives of interested United Nations organs;

(g) Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and UNCTAD;

(h) Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations specially invited by the Secretary-General of the Conference;

(i) Representatives of non-governmental organizations approved and invited by the Preparatory Committee to attend the Conference;

(j) Other persons invited by the Secretary-General of the Conference.

Inaugural ceremony

4. The inaugural ceremony of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will be held on the morning of Monday, 14 May 2001, at 9 a.m. at the European Parliament Building, Brussels, Belgium, and will be announced in the daily journal. A detailed programme and information for participation in the ceremony will be circulated prior to the event in Brussels.

Item 1 Opening of the Conference

5. Following the inaugural ceremony and in keeping with traditional practice, the head of the delegation from which the President of the previous Conference was elected (France) shall preside until the Conference has elected a President for the session.

Item 2 Election of the President

6. It is customary for the head of the delegation of the host of the Conference (the European Union) to be elected as the President of the Conference.

Item 3 Adoption of the rules of procedure

7. Provisional rules of procedure for the Conference are contained in document A/CONF.191/4. The Preparatory Committee, at its first session, approved the provisional rules of procedure and recommended them for adoption by the Conference.

Item 4 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Adoption of the agenda

8. The provisional agenda for the Conference, as approved by the Preparatory Committee at its first session, appears in section I above.

Organization of work

9. The Preparatory Committee considered and endorsed the design and structure of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. In this connection, it should be noted that:

(a) The total available services for meetings will be distributed, as required, among the interactive thematic plenaries, the Committee of the Whole, general statements, the civil society track and other subsidiary bodies that may be established by the Conference. Limited facilities may be provided for regional group meetings;

(b) The detailed working hours of the Conference will be indicated in a timetable to be circulated prior to the Conference;

(c) General statements, which will be broadcast live on the Internet, have been scheduled from 14 May, beginning at 3 p.m., to 19 May, ending at 1 p.m. There will be no general statements in the interactive thematic plenaries or in the Committee of the Whole.

10. The tentative schedule of meetings will be before the briefing session for senior officials preceding the Conference on 13 May.

Item 5 Establishment of subsidiary bodies

11. In line with rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference is to establish a Committee of the Whole. Pursuant to rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Committee of the Whole will be chaired by a Chairman elected by the Conference. Under rule 50 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Committee of the Whole will, unless it decides otherwise, elect a Vice-Chairman.

12. The Committee of the Whole will consider items 8, 9 and 10 of the provisional agenda and in doing so elaborate a Programme of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2000-2010 on the basis of a draft prepared by the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee.

Item 6 Election of officers other than the President

13. Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure provides for the election of a President, a Rapporteur, 15 Vice-Presidents and a Chairman for the Committee of the Whole to be established under rule 48. These 18 officers will constitute the Bureau of the Conference. In line with the same rule, the Vice-Presidents will be elected after the election of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole. The Preparatory Committee also recommended, in the context of article 6 of the provisional rules of procedure, that the members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee should subsequently also be represented in the Bureau of the Conference. It further recommended that the *ex officio* members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee should be associated with the work of the Bureau of the Conference.

Item 7 Credentials of representatives participating in the Conference

(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

14. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference and that its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fifty-fifth session. The States members of that Committee are: Bahamas; China; Ecuador; Gabon; Ireland; Mauritius; Russian Federation; Thailand; and United States.

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee

15. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference provides that the Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay. Rule 3 provides that the credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, who is Secretary-General of the Conference, if possible not less than two weeks before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials are to be issued by the Head of State or Government, or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva or by the Embassy at the venue of the Conference upon the explicit authorization of the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Item 8 Assessment of the results of the Programme of Action during the 1990s at the country level

Item 9 Review of the implementation of international support measures, particularly in the areas of official development assistance, debt, investment and trade

Item 10 Programme of Action: formulation and adoption of appropriate national and international policies and measures for sustainable development of the least developed countries and their progressive integration into the world economy

16. For the consideration of the above-mentioned items (8, 9 and 10), the Conference will have before it the documents mentioned below:

(a) The draft Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2000-2010, formulated by the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.191/6);

(b) *The Least Developed Countries 2000 Report* (UNCTAD/LDC/2000);

(c) Country presentations by individual least developed countries, circulated in the series A/CONF.191/CP/...

(d) Contributions from United Nations organizations and other competent intergovernmental and regional organizations, as well as a number of documents prepared by the Conference secretariat. Attention is drawn to document A/CONF.191/INF.2, on the structure/format of the Conference. The document describes how the Conference will address its agenda and fulfil its mandate through its various tracks. Particular attention is drawn to the question of general statements. Such statements will be delivered in a conference room specially equipped to allow live webcasting. The list of speakers will be opened on 2 April, and speakers will be inscribed on the list on a first-come-first-served basis. The general statements will begin on 14 May, at 3 p.m., in parallel with the plenary of the Conference, which will be devoted to interactive debates in thematic sessions giving rise to specific deliverables. Attention is also drawn to the parallel

events in the civil society track of the Conference, as explained in document A/CONF.191/INF.2.

Item 11 Other business

17. Any administrative and financial implications of proposed actions of the Conference will be brought to the attention of the Conference by the secretariat and subsequently put before the General Assembly.

Item 12 Adoption of the report of the Conference

18. It is suggested that the report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries should consist of an introduction and four parts. Part one should contain the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries; part two the compendium of deliverables; part three the compendium of recommendations and conclusions of parallel and civil society events approved by the Conference; and part four organizational matters. The proceedings of the Conference would appear in a separate volume.

ANNEX

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Afghanistan
Angola
Bangladesh
Benin
Bhutan
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gambia
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Kiribati
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Maldives
Mali
Mauritania
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Niger
Rwanda
Samoa
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
Sudan
Togo
Tuvalu
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Vanuatu
Yemen
Zambia

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